



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Quarterly Teleconference Meeting  
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
9:00 a.m. September 21, 2022

Open Session Minutes

**Present:** Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Don M. Millis, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

**Staff present:** Cody Davies, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Sara Linski, Kelly McCormick, John Smalley, Riley Vetterkind, Robert Williams, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

**A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Millis called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

**B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commission that the meeting was noticed in accordance with Wisconsin's open meetings laws.

**C. Public Comment**

**Eileen Newcomer**

Eileen Newcomer appeared before the Commission and provided public comment on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. She remarked upon the voting equipment audit guidelines before the Commission, as well as the proposed scope statement concerning election observers, and the update on ERIC.

Discussion.

Chair Millis noted that Eileen Newcomer also submitted written comment to the Commission.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*  
Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Ann S. Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

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*Administrator*  
Meagan Wolfe

## **Sandy Juno**

Chair Millis noted that Sandy Juno also submitted written comments to the Commission.

Sandy Juno appeared before the Commission and provided public comment on the scope statement concerning election observers. She emphasized election observers' role in ensuring transparent elections and commented on the difference in protections between election officials and election observers.

Discussion.

## **Barbara Beckert**

Chair Millis noted that Barbara Beckert also submitted written comments to the Commission.

Barbara Beckert appeared before the Commission and provided public comment on behalf of Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Disability Vote Coalition. In her comments she addressed the voting rights of individuals under guardianship and expressed support for the public outreach plans outlined in the staff update while noting that the outreach should include information about accessibility. She also remarked upon the 4-year maintenance postcard design and the WEC polling place accessibility review program.

Discussion.

## **Frank Contreras**

Frank Contreras was on the schedule to present comments but did not appear at the meeting. Chair Millis moved onto the next two speakers.

## **Ken Brown**

Ken Brown appeared before the Commission and provided public comment on the scope statement concerning election observers. He explained how the current setup for election observers at City of Racine polling places makes it more difficult for them to effectively observe activities carried out by poll workers and voters.

Discussion.

## **Maureen Reisner**

Maureen Reisner appeared before the Commission and echoed the sentiments of Sandy Juno and Ken Brown regarding the scope statement concerning election observers. She emphasized that directions in the permanent rule concerning election observers should be clear and commented that observers should be allowed to stand behind poll workers to effectively see and hear the process.

Frank Contreras had still not appeared, and Chair Millis moved on to the next agenda item.

## **D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

### **1. July 12, 2022**

- 2. July 22, 2022**
- 3. July 28, 2022**
- 4. August 3, 2022**
- 5. August 23, 2022 -Canvass**
- 6. August 25, 2022 -Canvass**
- 7. August 31, 2022**

Administrator Wolfe noted that the full Commission did not have to approve the August 23, 2022 and August 25, 2022 Canvass minutes.

**MOTION:** To approve the July 12, 2022, July 22, 2022, July 28, 2022, August 3, 2022, and August 31, 2022 minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

|                             |     |           |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
| Jacobs:                     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
| Millis:                     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

## **E. Voting Equipment Audit Guidelines**

Elections Specialist Robert Williams provided background on the agenda item and summarized the updated recommendations.

Discussion.

Elections Specialist Cody Davies presented specifications on what would constitute a tabulator error.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission adopts these updated 2022 post-election audit parameters and procedures outlined on page 38 of the Commission's materials, including recount considerations, timeline for completion, and error rate calculation, with the following updates to the summary of recommendations:

3. Postpone voting equipment audit deadlines until any applicable recount deadline has passed for a given municipality where a recount is possible. Should the recount deadline fall on or after November 18, 2022, and no recount is requested, grant clerks an additional week to complete their voting equipment audit, thereby requiring documentation to be submitted no later than December 2, 2022.

4. Any recount of any ballots must precede the audit of those ballots. Should the audit be postponed due to a recount, all materials must be submitted to the WEC no later than December 23, 2022

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Chair Millis.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

## **F. Grant Funding Update**

Deputy Administrator Robert Kehoe provided an update on the two elections security subgrant programs authorized by the Commission, the Election Security .gov Subgrant Reimbursement and the 2022 Election Security Subgrant Program for Municipalities.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission directs staff to extend the Elections Security .gov Email Domain subgrant program previously authorized on January 11, 2022, and to continue administration of the subgrant until the date determined by staff. Staff are authorized to delay reopening of the subgrant window as needed to facilitate other subgrant programs, but subgrant eligibility will remain retroactive to the original authorization date of January 11, 2022.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Chair Millis.

Discussion.

Administrator Wolfe clarified that the date mentioned in the memo, December 30, 2022, would work as the subgrant extension deadline and noted that staff could request an extension at the December meeting.

Discussion.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

## **G. Determining 4-year Maintenance Postcard Design**

Deputy Administrator Kehoe presented background information regarding the 4-year maintenance postcard. He walked the Commission through the sample postcard and asked the Commissioners for feedback on its design.

Discussion.

## **H. Deliberation on Continuing Absentee Ballot Request Mailers for Alternate Mailing Addresses**

Deputy Administrator Kehoe updated the Commission on the results of the postcard mailing sent to voters in the partisan primary who requested an absentee ballot and listed a mailing address for their absentee ballot that is different than their registration address.

**MOTION:** Continue the postcard mailing process through the November election and continue to send it for all future elections until the Commission decides to stop the process. The postcard will be sent to all voters who listed a mailing address for their absentee ballot that is different than their registration address.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** There will be two mailings for the November election at dates determined by staff.

Proposed by Chair Millis. Agreed to by Commissioner Spindell.

Commissioner Spindell clarified that staff would send the postcards for the November election and the Commission would revisit the mailing from there.

Discussion.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Continue the postcard mailing for the November election in two installments at dates determined by staff.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

## **I. Discussion and Possible Direction to Submit a Scope Statement Concerning Election Observers for Governor Approval**

The Commission took a break at 11:27 a.m. and returned at 11:45 a.m.

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker provided background information on the rule promulgation process and explained to the Commission where they currently were in that process regarding the permanent rule concerning election observers.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission directs staff to submit the scope statement concerning election observers, as discussed and modified by the Commission during this meeting, for approval by the governor in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 227.135. If the scope statement is approved, the Commission directs staff to prepare a notice for a preliminary public hearing and comment period under Wis. Stat. § 227.136 to be approved by the Commission at a subsequent meeting so that the scope statement and notice may be published simultaneously by the Legislative Reference Bureau in the Administrative Register.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | No  |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 5-1.

## **J. General Election Preparations**

Administrator Wolfe presented an overview of staff's preparations for the general election. She touched on efforts in the areas of information technology, U.S. Postal Service coordination, accessibility, election security, public outreach, local election official training, and staffing to ensure efficient and secure administration of the general election.

Discussion.

## **K. ERIC Update**

Deputy Administrator Kehoe updated the Commission on preparations for the third quarterly ERIC Movers mailing.

Commissioner Jacobs requested that staff use more descriptive terms than "Active-Movers" and "Active-Registered" in future tables summarizing movers mailings.

Discussion.

## **L. Voter Felon Audit Report**

Deputy Administrator Kehoe explained the decision item before the Commission.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** If a district attorney's office does not provide an update within 6 years of the election date, staff should consider the referral closed and discontinue providing updates to the commission.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

## **M. Staff Update**

Administrator Wolfe provided the Commission with an update on staff's activities since the last staff update. She noted that there was overlap between this update and the preparations for the general election discussed in a previous agenda item, but touched on upcoming deadlines, the WEC newsletter, and the new WEC website.

Discussion.

## **N. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) and § 19.851.

Moved by Commissioner Glancey. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

|                 |             |     |           |     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Roll call vote: | Bostelmann: | Aye | Glancey:  | Aye |
|                 | Jacobs:     | Aye | Spindell: | Aye |
|                 | Millis:     | Aye | Thomsen:  | Aye |

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 12:41 p.m.

The Commission adjourned closed session at 1:32 p.m.

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September 21, 2022 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



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Anna Langdon, Help Desk Staff

September 22, 2022

September 21, 2022 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



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Julie Glancey, Commission Secretary

November 30, 2022